



## UPLAND 47, REDLANDS EAST VALLEY 26

# Highlanders get early jump, cruise to victory

By Michelle Gardner

[mgardner@scng.com](mailto:mgardner@scng.com) @MGardnerSports on Twitter

**REDLANDS** » The last thing the Redlands East Valley football team could afford was to get off to a bad start against highly-touted Upland, which came into Friday's nonleague contest ranked second in CIF Southern Section Division 2.

So when REV botched a punt snap and turned the ball over to the Highlanders at their own 24-yard line three plays into the game it was indicative of things to come.

The Highlanders didn't let up and registered a 47-26 win at Redlands High.

The game was not as close as the score would indicate as the visitors led 40-13 before REV capitalized on a couple of big plays.

The Highlanders also had several penalties that aided the Wildcats. That was the first thing Upland coach Tim Salter brought up in the postgame huddle.

"We have to clean some things up," he said. "We showed some great things and we gave a different look tonight so I was pleased. If we can just fix those little things, we're going to be pretty good."

The Highlanders (3-0) had a short field on their second possession too as Leonard Leau jumped on a Wildcat fumble at the REV 29. Upland scored two plays later with Kyle Jones running it in from the 17, although the kick failed, leaving it 13-0.

REV (1-1) went three and out on its next possession and again Upland capitalized. A 10-play drive ended with a 5-yard run by Cameron Davis, making it 19-0.

Giving Upland that head start proved fatal.

"We came out tentative in the first quarter and made some mistakes," REV coach Kurt Bruich said, "After that I thought we played a lot better. You can't play like that early and recover against a good team."

Upland led 33-13 at the half. and got a 3-yard scoring pass from David Baldwin to Jones on the first play of the fourth quarter to make it 47-13.

Then came the highlights for the Wildcats. Brandon Wells returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown to make it 47-19.

Three plays later an Upland fumble was scooped up by REV's Deonte Houston who ran 45 yards for a score, this one making it 47-27..

Jones had three touchdowns on the night, two on the ground and one on a reception. Cam Davis had runs of 5 and 23 yards and Taj Davis was a

menace all night. He had eight catches for 187 yards, highlighted by scoring catches of 75 and 8 yards.

"We know we have things to work on but I still think we're going to be the best team in our league," Taj Davis said. "We just have to keep getting better.": Much-heralded sophomore linebacker Justin Flowe had a phenomenal game. Among his myriad of tackles was one in which he brought down the REV ball carrier in the end zone for a 4-yard loss and a safety.

Bruich was impressed with the Upland standout.

"He is that good, He'll be playing on Sundays," Bruich said. "You hate it when he's on the other team but I respect that. The kid can play."

Upland will be at home against La Mirada next Friday while REV will play Heritage.